Michael Auten 9/23/13

EDC 102 Grade Lvl Reflec

When I was in elementary school I remember it giving off the feeling that I was a part of a community of my classmates and kids in other classes. I grew up in an upper middle class suburb of primarily white Catholic or white Jewish decent. My school wasn’t anywhere near as diverse as the world we live in. The people I met and became friends with were from close to the same walk of life as me.

Kindergarten wasn’t much. I remember everybody was friends with everybody and we had little stations everyday where we would do different things such as math problems, spelling exercises, or reading, with each station having some sort of fun little kid aspect to it to keep kids into it. We’d do that for the whole day go outside for recess and play tag or baseball etc, and then we’d come back in for lunch.

First grade was like kindergarten except instead of stations and fun activities the learning process was more like the typical “Teacher talks to you, you write it down, quiz every Friday on what we learned” kind of thing. Same recess and same lunch and maybe some visits to the library and computer lab to introduce us that for the next year.

Second grade was probably one of my favorite years. Everybody was good friends with each other by then and we all were well versed with how class went to be able to tone down effort a bit and achieve the same results. Second grade was where it really began to feel like a community. I ended up getting appendicitis in February of second grade and when I came back the whole class had a welcome back party. We took a break on learning for most of the day to eat cake and have extra recess.

As elementary school progressed I was well prepared for the increased freedoms and harder classes of middle school. Fifth grade compared to kindergarten for me was the exact opposite end of the spectrum. It was all learning and no fun and games. They began to give you the idea that school isn’t all fun and games, but actually hard work you need to do. I can say elementary school has prepared me for some of the future. It has taught me to feel a part of the community I’m in and has taught me to balance the joy of life with the hard work so I may enjoy life later.